(c) the reasons for delay in shifting the said connections; and

(d) the details of responsibility fixed for the said delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): The number of application forms received for shifting of telephones in Karol Bagh Exchange of MTNL, Delhi in the month of May and June, 2001 is as under:—

May, 2001 - 275

June, 2001 - 205

(b) Except 70 telephones, all other telephones have been shifted.

(c) The delay in shifting of 70 telephones connections is due to non-availability of underground cable pairs.

(d) Does not arise.

Telephone connections of the residents of Village Poore Gayadatta Mishra, Sultanpur, UP

†2482. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that capacity of Telephone exchange Dhanpatganj, Sultanpur, U.P. is much less than the requirements as a result of which exchange remains busy and installation of new connections has come to a standstill;

(b) what are the details of the waiting list of the exchange;

(c) The details of waiting list of the Village Poore Gayadatta Mishra indicating number and time together with the reasons for non-installation of telephone connection even after meeting all the formalities; and

(d) by when phone connections would be provided to all the applicants of the village?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) 2256 ports C-DOT exchange is working at Dhanpatganj, Sultanpur, UP and waiting list is 138. To clear the present waiting

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

list, a telephone exchange with capacity of 1000 lines is under installation and is expected to be commissioned by October 31, 2001.

(c) and (d) No person has registered for telephone connection from Village Gayadatta Mishra.

Modernisation of Postal Services

2483. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve and expand speed post services by including towns and cities not directly connected through Air Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have drawn any strategy to modernise postal system in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds earmarked for this purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) National Speed Post Centres have already been set up in many cities/towns not directly connected through Air services. For such centres, Speed Post is sent through Rail and Road network. Speed Post is a premium product and is run on commercial considerations. Expansion of this network is an on-going process depending on market situation, assessment of the need, the anticipated revenue and transport network.

(c) and (d) the Ninth Five Year Plan of the Department of Posts (1997—2002) seeks to expand, in a phased manner, the scope and coverage of the programmes of modernisation of postal services including specific agency functions through induction of technology initiated during the Eighth Plan period. The focus of the programme of modernisation is to improve the quality of postal services as well as to increase revenue generation. Human Resource Development through appropriate training for skill upgradation and streamlining of management functions are also priority areas identified to support the modernisation programmes. Scheme-wise details of major modernisation programmes under the Ninth Five Year Plan are given in the Statement (*See* below).